

81 Foreign Agents Seized at Canal Face Close Quiz

Civil and military authorities today sought to learn the character background and nationality of 81 foreign agents detained in the Panama Canal Zone on charges of entering the area illegally.

By United Press

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Officials studied their cases to determine whether they should be deported direct from the Canal Zone, brought to the United States for hearing before the Immigration Service, or held for "other disposition."

Mr. Stimson denied that aliens are employed on defense projects on the isthmus.

"There are no persons working on Zone other than American soldiers or American engineers," he continued.

Under a law enacted last June, all Federal jobs must be filled in the Canal Zone by United States citizens or Panamanians by May 1, 1941.

Earlier this year, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation visited the Canal Zone to check on the spy and sabotage situation.

They reported to President Roosevelt who later made a personal inspection tour of the canal's defenses.

Brig. Gen. George V. Strong, chief of the war plans section, and other officers of the high command have warned Congress in recent months that the greatest threat to the canal is from the "invisible danger" is more difficult to counteract than an outright attack or bombing raid.

The Army recently has been undertaking a vast strengthening of its forces in the Canal Zone. More than 20,000 soldiers are believed on duty there now.